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The West American Scientist.

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THOMAS MEEHAN.

"Friend after friend departs,
Who hath not lost a friend?"

The State Botanist of Pennsylvania and senior editor of Meehan's Monthly of Germantown, passed to the "better land" Nov. 19, 1901, aged 75 years. He was born in London, England, March 21, 1826. He once wrote: "My earliest recollection is of butter-cups in a field of grass tossed into mimic waves by a summer breeze, at three years of age, West London, England."

His early home was the Isle of Wight. There being no schools there his mother taught him to read and write. The "Book of Common Prayer" was his primer, the Bible and Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress his readers. After the family moved to Ryde he went to school two years. Eager for learning he improved every opportunity, and with his hard earned pocket money bought a Latin Dictionary and Grammar, Logic and some other books and studied nights in his father's greenhouse. And thus became so proficient that before he was 19 he was elected meber of the Royal Wernerian Society of Edinburg, on account of his original contributions, one of them being a paper in which a knowledge of Latin was an essential requisite. He also studied Greek the same way, and became so familiar with French as to read it like English. This young man saw Victoria, the then young queen, more than once, while he was a student at Kew gardens. The young man went to America, and at the age of 22 entered Philadelphia, where for more than half a century he has been one of the leading minds of the city, being 20 years on the school board and long a member of the city legislature and being the means of getting up 23 small parks for the benefit of the poor. He became respected and beloved by the large community. He was the friend of the genial Botanist, Dr. Asa Gray, and spoke of him as "one of the kindest of heart among my friends." Prof. Meehan has been for some years an efficient director of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science, the collections of which are the third best on this continent, to which he was a liberal contributor. The professor was often asked to write his biography, but said that at his age he would rather be making history that writing it. He was fond of music and said: "When I want a change from science I take my flute and play over some old church tunes. Indeed I sometimes think that when they bury me I would listen with pleasure to "Autumn" if they would sing it over my grave."

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HOUSE HOLD PESTS.

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are 3 long, bristle-shaped appendages, one pointing directly backward, the other 2 extending out at a considerable angle; 4 shorter appendages are near; 6 legs spring from the thorax, and, while not very long, they are powerful and enable the insect to run with great rapidity.

Heavily glazed paper is very attractive to this insect, while it often causes wall paper to scale off by its feeding on the starch paste. Pyrethrum furnishes the best means of control, wherever it can be applied. C. L. Marlatt describes and figures it in bulletin No. 4, new series, division of entomology, U. S. department of agriculture, from which the above notes are mainly taken. Lepisma saccharina L. is the common species of England, now practically cosmopolitan.

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